

BLOUGH FARM
845 Spiegle Road
Hollsopple
Somerset County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6745
PA-6745

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BLOUGH FARM

HABS No. PA-6745

LOCATION: 845 Spiegle Road, Hollsopple, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

DATE OF
CONSTRUCTION: 1902 (barn)

PRESENT OWNER: John Blough

SIGNIFICANCE: The Blough Farm provides a picture of a prosperous late-nineteenth century farm, with excellent integrity in the house, barn and outbuildings. The barn features medallions and painted decoration that (along with applied barn stars) are typical of barns in Somerset and Bedford counties, the only area of Pennsylvania where these kinds of ornamental features are generally found.

DESCRIPTION: The barn is in excellent condition, featuring two-story louvers with paired arches and sawn ornament, and three large decorative medallions on the main gable and cross-gable ends. It is banked on the west side. The east side features a centered cross-gable decorated with one of the three barn medallions that act as ventilators for the haymow. There are five major bays on the long east elevation, separated by posts decoratively painted along the wall. Pairs of narrow, two-story louvers fill the north-and south-end bays, while one-story louvers occupy the second floor of the three middle bays, above a row of doors. All the louvers in the barn are paired with wooden arches; sawn-ornamental "swags" are found above them on the east and south elevations. A rectangular cupola sits at a 45 degree angle atop the center of the barn. Both gable ends feature a row of four two-story louvers below a row of three one-story louvers. A large circular medallion sits just below the gable's peak. The barn is sheathed in vertical wood siding painted red, with painted white trim.

The Blough farmhouse is constructed from two overlapping layers of vertical planks, each one extending to the roofline and anchored in a groove in the foundation stones. There is a cupola at the crown of the gable which still contains the bell used to call the hands to meals.

HISTORY: The original Blough farmhouse was built ca. 1840. The barn was first built in 1894, and rebuilt in 1902 with funds from the sale of the property's coal rights, reusing whatever timbers could be salvaged from the original barn.

The remaining outbuildings include an equipment shed, a smokehouse, and a pump house. A corncrib was removed in 1999. The farm remains in the Blough family.

SOURCE: Donnelly, Lu, H. David Brumble, IV, and Franklin Toker. *Buildings of Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, forthcoming.

HISTORIAN: Christopher H. Marston, HAER Architect, 2007

PROJECT
INFORMATION: This short-form history was prepared to supplement photographic documentation of historic sites in western Pennsylvania. In 2005 Nicholas Traub photographed several sites for the *Buildings of Western Pennsylvania* publications, with funding from HABS/HAER/HALS. The Society of Architectural Historians cosponsored the photography project and is producing two volumes, *Buildings of Pittsburgh* and *Buildings of Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania* as part of their Buildings of the United States series, published by the University of Virginia Press. The documentation was facilitated by Lu Donnelly, Project Director, Buildings of Western Pennsylvania, for the Heinz Architectural Center at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. The documentation was edited and transmitted in the Washington office of HABS/HAER/HALS by Christopher H. Marston, HAER Architect.